



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STAFF MEMBER ASSAULTED, TWO FEMALE JUVENILES IN CUSTODY

(Pierre) - Two female juveniles are in custody after assaulting a staff member and escaping from the EXCEL program near Custer Sunday, September 24th.

At about 11:20 PM, one of the girls asked the Wellness Instructor on duty if she could use the bathroom. A few minutes later, the girl called the staff member to the bathroom for assistance, saying her stomach hurt. When the staff member bent down to check the girl's stomach, another girl placed a bed sheet over the staff member's head and twisted the material around the staff member's neck. The staff member then struggled with the girls, who also were in possession of a knife and fork. After the brief struggle, the girls ran out of the building and left campus.

A Custer County Sheriff's deputy apprehended the girls about 100 yards from campus.

They are now being held in the Juvenile Services Center in Rapid City. A decision on charges is pending.

Both of the girls are 15 years old and from Sioux Falls. Both were committed to the Department of Corrections as Children In Need of Supervision (CHINS).

The staff member was taken to Custer County Hospital and treated for a sore neck, bruised arm and abrasions on her face. She did not require admittance to the hospital.

The EXCEL program opened in June 2000. The program is located on the east campus of the Custer Youth Corrections Center.